

**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

**Applicants:** Chet M. Crump et al. **Docket** BA-00117  
**Serial No.:** 09/459,522 **Group:** 3761  
**Filed:** December 13, 1999 **Examiner:** Darwin P. Erezo  
**For:** Endotracheal Catheter and Manifold **Date:** June 12, 2002  
Assembly with Improved Valve

## **Amendment Transmittal Letter**

**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231**

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified patent application. The non-small entity fee has been calculated in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.16 (b), (c) and (d) as follows:

### **Claims As Amended**

Please charge the above amount to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875. A duplicate of this transmittal letter is attached. Please charge any additional fees which are due or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 11-0875.

The undersigned may be reached at: (770) 587-7183.

Respectfully submitted,

CRUMP ET AL.

By:

William W. Letson

Registration No.: 42,797

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I, William W. Letson, hereby certify that on June 12, 2002, this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By:

William W. Letson

**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Applicants: Crump et al. Docket BA00117  
Serial No.: 09/459,522 Group: 3761  
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For: ENDOTRACHEAL CATHETER AND  
MANIFOLD ASSEMBLY WITH  
IMPROVED VALVE

**Amendment**

*Recommended  
for Entry  
8/1/02  
DE*

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and in response to the Office Action mailed February 12, 2002 it is respectfully requested the Examiner reconsider the present application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**In the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follow:

Claim 1, please amend to read as follows:

1. (Amended.) An apparatus comprising:

a catheter configured for receiving fluids from a respiratory tract of a patient;  
a manifold defining a ventilation circuit disposed in communication with the catheter so as to allow the catheter to be advanced through the ventilation circuit of the manifold and into the respiratory tract of the patient; and  
a valve disposed in the manifold, the valve being configured to selectively limit the withdrawal of air from the ventilation circuit, wherein the valve comprises at least one protrusion on at least one surface of the valve, and wherein the valve is a flap.

Claim 11, please amend to read as follows:

11. (Amended.) An endotracheal catheter system comprising:

a catheter having a distal end configured for suctioning secretions from the respiratory system of a patient;  
a ventilator manifold disposed in communication with the catheter such that the catheter may be advanced through the manifold into the respiratory system of the patient and withdrawn from the respiratory system of the patient through the manifold; and